

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ :**H04Q 7/38****A2**

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 00/62574

(43) International Publication Date:

19 October 2000 (19.10.00)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US00/07786

(22) International Filing Date:

23 March 2000 (23.03.00)

(30) Priority Data:

09/289,067

8 April 1999 (08.04.99)

US

(71) Applicant: ERICSSON, INC. [US/US]; 7001 Development Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (US).

(72) Inventors: IRVIN, David, R.; 1546 Iredell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27608 (US). KHAYRALLAH, Ali, S.; 113 Streamview Drive, Apex, NC 27502 (US).

(74) Agent: MONCO, Dean, A.; Wood, Phillips, VanSanten, Clark & Mortimer, Suite 3800, 500 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661-2511 (US).

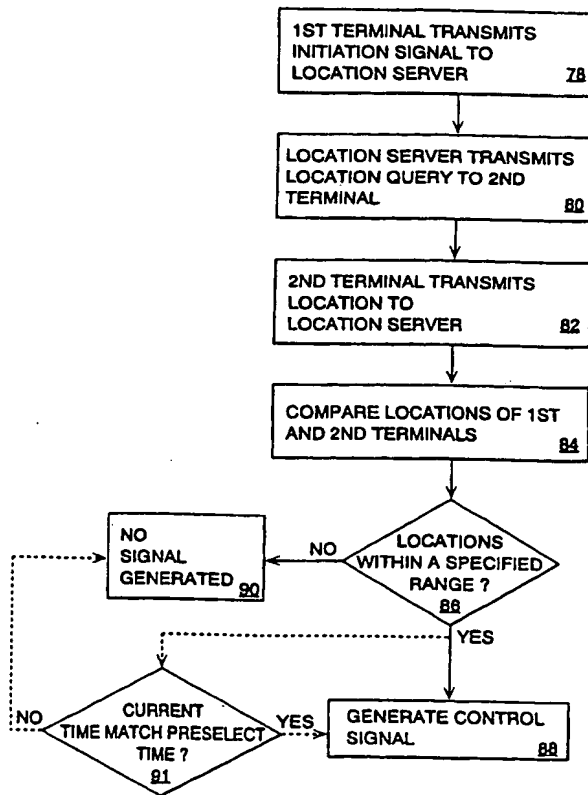
(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published*Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.*

(54) Title: METHOD OF GENERATING CONTROL SIGNALS BASED ON LOCATION OF RADIO TERMINALS

(57) Abstract

A method of generating a control signal to enable or inhibit a wide variety of applications is provided. The method generally includes the steps of determining the location of a first mobile radio terminal, determining the location of a second mobile radio terminal, comparing the locations of the terminals, and generating a control signal based upon the comparison. The control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are within a specified distance of one another. Alternatively, the control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are separated by at least a specified distance from one another. Additionally, the control signal may be generated if it is determined that the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at a second specified location spatially separated from the first specified location. Further, the control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are at specified locations at a preselect time.



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia			SG	Singapore		

METHOD OF GENERATING CONTROL SIGNALS BASED ON LOCATION OF RADIO TERMINALS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is generally directed toward wireless communications systems and, more particularly, toward the generation of a control signal when two or more radio terminals are at specified locations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 U.S. Patent No. 5,638,423 teaches activating a wireless radio terminal, such as a cellular phone, in response to a signal received from a proximity user card over a short-range RF (Radio Frequency) link. The wireless terminal is activated for use when the wireless terminal and the proximity user card are within a predetermined distance from one another, which aids in preventing unauthorized use of the wireless terminal. The predetermined distance is set by the transceiving range between the proximity user card and the wireless terminal. However, a disadvantage of the method taught by U.S. Patent No. 5,638,423 is that
15 it depends on signal amplitude of a low power, short-range RF link between the wireless terminal and the proximity user card, which is inherently unreliable.

20 The wireless terminal transmits an inquiry signal, via the low power, short-range RF link, to the card. If the wireless terminal's inquiry to the card goes unanswered, logic in the wireless terminal determines that the wireless terminal and the card are separated by a distance greater than the predetermined distance, and the wireless terminal transmits an invalid proximity message and is kept locked. Since the range and reliability of a low power, short-range RF link varies according to signal loss imposed by its environment, the method of activating a wireless terminal for use as taught in U.S. Patent No. 5,638,423 is subject to erroneous determinations.

25 The disclosed method overcomes one or more of the above-mentioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

 A control signal is generated based on the location of one or more mobile radio terminals as determined, for example, by a global positioning system or, where the radio

terminal is a cellular terminal, by cellular positioning. The method generally includes the steps of determining the location of a first mobile radio terminal, determining the location of a second mobile radio terminal, comparing the locations of the terminals, and generating a control signal based upon the comparison. The control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are within a specified distance of one another. Alternatively, the control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are separated by at least a specified distance from one another. Additionally, the control signal may be generated if it is determined that the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at a second specified location spatially separated from the first specified location. Still further, the control signal may be generated if it is determined that the first and second mobile radio terminals are at the first and second specified locations at some particular time (or times).

In one form, the first mobile radio terminal is a mobile communication device and the second mobile radio terminal is a key permitting operation of the mobile communication device only when the key is within a predetermined distance from the mobile communication device. If the key is determined to be within the predetermined distance of the mobile communication device, the control signal activates the mobile communication device for use.

An alternative embodiment of the method includes the steps of determining locations of N mobile radio terminals (where $N \geq 2$), comparing the locations of the N mobile radio terminals with M different specified locations, wherein $M \leq N$, and generating a control signal if at least one of the N mobile radio terminals is determined to be located at each of the M different specified locations, or if each of the N terminals is at its assigned specified location.

In one form of the alternative embodiment, the step of determining locations of the N mobile radio terminals includes the step of continuously monitoring, via a central server remote from the N mobile radio terminals, the locations of the N mobile radio terminals.

A further embodiment of the method includes the steps of receiving, at a location server, an initiation signal from a first mobile radio terminal, and transmitting, by the location server, a location query to the first and second mobile radio terminals. In response to the location query, the first and second mobile radio terminals report their respective

locations to the location server. The location server compares the received locations of the first and second mobile radio terminals and generates a control signal based upon the comparison.

5 In one form of the further embodiment, the initiation signal from the first mobile radio terminal includes the location of the first mobile radio terminal, wherein the location server need only transmit a location query to the second mobile radio terminal.

Location information of the first and second mobile radio terminals, or of the N mobile radio terminals, may be provided by a GPS receiver in the mobile radio terminals or, for a cellular terminal, by cellular positioning.

10 It is an object of the disclosed method to generate a control signal when two or more mobile radio terminals are simultaneously in two or more prearranged positions. The positions may be relative to each other or absolute, and the control signal may be utilized to enable or inhibit a wide variety of applications.

15 Other aspects, objects and advantages of the disclosed method can be obtained from a study of the application, the drawings, and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a cellular phone used in the generation of a control signal based on location;

20 Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a smart card used in the generation of a control signal based on location;

Fig. 3 is a flow chart illustrating the generation of a control signal based on the location of a cellular phone and a smart card;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a wireless communications system used in the generation of a control signal based on location;

25 Fig. 5 is a flow chart illustrating the generation of a control signal based on the location of first and second mobile radio terminals;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart illustrating an alternative form of generating a control signal based on the location of first and second mobile radio terminals;

30 Fig. 7 is a flow chart illustrating a further form of generating a control signal based on the location of first and second mobile radio terminals;

Fig. 8 is a block diagram of an alternative form of the wireless communications system shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 9 is a block diagram of a wireless communications system used in the generation of a control signal based on the location of N mobile radio terminals; and

Fig. 10 is a block diagram of an alternative wireless communications system used in the generation of a control signal based on the location of N mobile radio terminals.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A control signal is generated when two or more mobile radio terminals are simultaneously in two or more specified locations, and alternatively, when two or more mobile radio terminals are simultaneously in two or more specified locations at some particular time (or times). The control signal may be used to enable or inhibit a wide variety of applications. In one form, each of the wireless terminals is provided with a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver for determining the location of the terminal. The control signal may be generated by any of the radio terminals, or by a location server remote from the radio terminals and in wireless communication therewith.

In one application, a cellular phone may be paired with a smart card carried by the user of the cellular phone. The cellular phone operates only when it is within a selected specified distance from the smart card. Thus, the smart card serves as a key for activating/unlocking the cellular phone.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a cellular phone, shown generally at 10, which includes a user interface 12 having visual display 14, keypad 16 and ringer 18 features, an audio I/O circuit 20 connected to a microphone 22 and a speaker 24, a microprocessor logic circuit 26 having a memory 28, a wide-range RF transceiver 30, a GPS receiver 32 and a short-range RF transceiver 34 all communicating, and receiving power from battery 36, via a system bus 38.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a smart card, shown generally at 40, which includes a microprocessor logic circuit 42 having a memory 44, a short-range RF transceiver 46, a GPS receiver 48, and optionally a wide-range RF transceiver 50 all communicating, and receiving power from battery 52, via a system bus 54.

The GPS receivers 32 and 48 in the phone 10 and smart card 40 preferably turn on intermittently to detect the location of the respective terminal. The location of the

phone 10 is stored in its memory 28, and similarly, the location of the smart card 40 is stored in its memory 44.

Operation when a user desires to activate the phone 10 for use will now be described with respect to Figs. 1-2 and the flow chart of Fig. 3. It should be understood that while operation will be described with specific reference to the phone 10 and smart card 40, the phone 10 and smart card 40 may be any wireless radio terminals.

Upon call activity, either incoming or outgoing, at the phone 10 at block 54, the microprocessor logic circuit 26 in the phone 10 queries the phone's 10 location at block 56. The microprocessor logic circuit 26, at block 56, may retrieve the last stored location of the phone 10 from the memory 28, or may activate the GPS receiver 32 to do a location check. The phone's microprocessor logic circuit 26 then queries the card's 40 location at block 58. Similarly, the card 40 may respond with the last location stored in its memory 44, or may activate its GPS receiver 48 to do a location check and respond with the determined location. The query from the phone 10, at block 58, and response from the card 40 are transmitted over a short-range RF link, for example, Bluetooth as described in "Bluetooth - The universal radio interface for *ad hoc*, wireless connectivity", Ericsson Review No. 3, 1998, established by short-range RF transceivers 34 and 46 in the phone 10 and card 40, respectively.

If a timely response is received from the card 40 at block 60, the microprocessor logic circuit 26 in the phone 10 compares the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 at block 62. If it is determined that the locations are within a specified range at block 64, the microprocessor logic circuit 26 in the phone 10 generates a control signal at block 66, to activate the phone 10 and allow the call to be processed. If the locations are not within a specified range or distance at block 64, the microprocessor logic circuit 26 in the phone 10 keeps the phone 10 locked or deactivated at block 68. If a timely response is not received from the card 40 at block 60, the microprocessor logic circuit 26 in the phone 10 keeps the phone 10 locked or deactivated at block 70. It should be understood that the decision to lock or unlock the phone 10 may also be made in the smart card 40. In this variation, the smart card 40 would send an authorization sequence to the phone 10, at block 66, over the short-range RF link to unlock or activate the phone 10.

In an alternative form, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, after the positions of the phone 10 and card 40 are determined to be within a specified range at block 64, the

current time, generally kept by a clock (not shown) internal to either the phone 10 and card 40 is compared with a preselect time, at block 71. The preselect time, set by a user, may be a particular point in time or a time range, *e.g.*, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. If the current time matches the preselect time at block 71, the control signal is generated at block 66 to activate the phone 10 and allow the call to be processed. If the current time does not match the preselect time, the phone 10 is kept locked or deactivated at block 68. By adding the time constraint, a user, such as a parent, is able to restrict use of the phone 10, such as by their children to whom the phone 10 may be given, to certain times of the day.

The determination of whether the phone 10 and card 40 are within a specified range may be made by a location server 72 remote from the phone 10 and card 40, as shown in Fig. 4. The location server 72 communicates with the phone 10 and card 40 via base station 74 and network 76, or may be physically located at the base station 74. The network 76 may be any type of network permitting voice or data communication between the base station 74 and location server 72, such as, but not limited to, a PSTN (Public Switching Telephone Network), the Internet, *etc.* Communication between the phone 10/card 40 and the base station 74 occurs over the wide-range RF link established by the RF transceivers 30 and 50 in the phone 10 and card 40, respectively, and an RF transceiver (not shown) in the base station 74. To support such wide-range communications, the phone 10 and card 40 each have a Mobile Identification Number (MIN) or Short-Message-Service (SMS) capability.

In operation, as shown in Figs. 1-2, 4 and the flow chart of Fig. 5, the phone 10 (1st terminal) transmits an initiation signal, such as an activation request signal or call set up signal, to the location server 72 via the base station 74 and network 76 at block 78. For convenience, communication will generally be described as taking place between the phone 10/card 40 and the location server 72, however, it should be understood that all such communications occur via the base station 74 and network 76 (if the location server 72 is not at the base station 74). The initiation signal transmitted by the phone 10 at block 78, also includes data representing the location of the phone 10, which may be obtained by utilizing the last location stored in the phone's memory 28 or activating the phone's GPS receiver 32 to do a location check. Upon receipt of the initiation signal from the phone 10, the location server 72 transmits a location query to the card 40 (2nd terminal) at block 80. The card 40 receives the location query and transmits its location back to the location server 72 at block 82. The location of the card 40 may be obtained by either retrieving the last stored location of the card

40 from its memory 44 or activating the card's GPS receiver 48 to do a location check upon receipt of the location query from the location server 72. The location server 72 compares the received locations of the phone 10 and card 40 at block 84. If the server 72 determines that the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are within a specified range, at block 86, the location server 72 generates a control signal at block 88, typically to activate the phone 10 allowing it to process the call. If the location server 72 determines that the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are not within a specified range at block 86, the location server 72 does not generate a control signal, at block 90, keeping the phone 10 locked/deactivated.

In an alternative form, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5, after the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are determined to be within a specified range at block 86, the location server 72 determines whether the current time, generally kept by a clock (not shown) internal to the location server 72, matches a preselect time at block 91. The preselect time, set by a user of the system, may be a particular point in time or a time range, *e.g.*, 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM. If the current time matches the preselect time at block 91, the location server 72 generates a control signal at block 88. Otherwise, the location server 72 does not generate a control signal, at block 90.

In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Fig. 6, blocks 86, 88 and 90 have been replaced with blocks 86', 88' and 90'. The steps provided in blocks 78, 80, 82 and 84, and alternatively block 91, are performed in the same manner as previously described with respect to Fig. 5. After comparing the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 at block 84, the location server 72 determines whether the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are separated by a predetermined distance at block 86'. If the location server 72 determines that the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are separated by at least the specified distance at block 86', the location server 72 generates a control signal at block 88'. If, however, the locations of the phone 10 and card 40 are not separated by the specified distance, no control signal is generated by the location server 72 at block 90'.

Alternatively, generation of the control signal may occur according to the routine illustrated in Fig. 7. After initiation at block 92 by either the phone 10 or card 40, the location server 72 queries, at block 94, and receives, at block 96, the locations of the phone 10 (1st terminal) and card 40 (2nd terminal). The location server 72 then determines, at block 98, whether the phone 10 is at a first specified location. If not, the location server 72 does not generate a control signal, at block 100, and exits the routine. If the phone 10 is at the first

specified location, the location server 72 then determines whether the card 40 is at a second specified location at block 102. If not, the location server 72 does not generate a control signal, at block 104, and exits the routine. If the card 40 is determined to be at the second specified location, the location server 72 generates a control signal at block 106 and exits the routine. As previously noted, the control signal may be used to enable or inhibit a variety of applications.

In a further form, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 7, after the location of the card 40 is determined to be at the second specified location at block 102, the location server 72 determines whether the current time, generally kept by a clock (not shown) internal to the location server 72, matches a preselect time at block 107. If the current time matches the preselect time at block 107, the location server generates a control signal at block 106 and exits the routine. Otherwise, the location server 72 does not generate a control signal, at block 110, and exits the routine.

Instead of the location server 72 requesting location information from each of the phone 10 and card 40, location information may be supplied to the location server 72 by a cellular positioning system 108, which monitors the location of each of the radio terminals (phone 10 and card 40), as shown in Fig. 8, thus alleviating the need for GPS receivers 32 and 48 in the phone 10 and card 40, respectively. This requires, however, that each of the mobile terminals be actively transmitting signals via their RF transceivers so that their location may be monitored by the cellular positioning system 108. The phone signal utilized by the cellular positioning system 108 may be a communication signal or a registration signal intermittently transmitted by the cell phone 10/card 40. The determined location may be stored in a memory (not shown) resident within the cellular positioning system 108.

In each of the above-described methods utilizing the location server 72, the steps would essentially be the same except that the location server 72 would query the cellular positioning system 108 for the location of the respective radio terminals (phone 10 and card 40). Upon receipt of a location query from the location server 72, the cellular positioning system 108 may use the stored location of the respective radio terminal, if applicable, or may request that the radio terminal transmit a registration signal from which the cellular positioning system 108 may determine its location. Accordingly, a detailed discussion of each method utilizing the cellular positioning system 108 is not necessary.

While the control signal has been described as being generated by the location server 72, it should be understood that either the location server 72 or any of the radio terminals may generate the control signal. Upon determining that the criteria for the generation of the control signal have been met, the location server 72 would transmit an authorization sequence to the respective radio terminal initiating the generation of the control signal by the respective radio terminal.

The location server 72 may monitor, via base station 74 and network 76 (if the location server 72 is not at the base station 74), the location of a plurality of mobile radio terminals A-N, as shown in Fig. 9. The location server 72 determines if the N different mobile radio terminals, where $N \geq 2$, are at M different locations, where $M \leq N$. The location server 72 determines whether terminals are at the M different locations, and generates an appropriate control signal. Alternatively, the location server 72 may generate the control signal when the N mobile terminals are not at the M different locations.

For example, a secure building may have M guard points. Each of N guards carries a radio terminal which generates a location signal monitored by the location server 72. The location server 72 generates a control signal automatically sealing the building when no guard is at one or more stations, and unlocking the building when all guards are present at their stations.

As shown in Fig. 10, the mobile radio terminals A-N may communicate directly with the location server 72 if the location server 72 includes a transceiver and is positioned within a sufficient operating range to receive the signals generated by the wireless mobile terminals A-N. In this embodiment, a short-range RF link may be established between the mobile radio terminals A-N and the location server 72. In the above example, this may be the case if the location server 72 was centrally located within the building.

In other applications utilizing the above-described methods, the operation of a marine or maritime phone may be tied to a particular boat having a built-in smart card; the operation of an emergency transceiver may be limited to the area surrounding a police car; the operation of a police car or delivery vehicle may be disabled when an officer or delivery person carries a transceiver away from the car or vehicle; *etc.* In each application, the mobile radio terminals may exchange position information with each other via a short-range RF link, *e.g.*, Bluetooth, or by each having a Mobile Identification Number (MIN), or Short-Message-

Service (SMS) capabilities and access to a location server, or directly to each other, via a wide-range RF link.

While the present invention has been described with particular reference to the drawings, it should be understood that various modifications could be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
determining the location of a first mobile radio terminal;
determining the location of a second mobile radio terminal;
comparing the locations of the terminals; and
5 generating a control signal based upon said comparison.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a control signal
based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a control signal if the locations
of the first and second mobile radio terminals are within a specified distance of one another.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a control signal
based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a control signal if the locations
of the first and second mobile radio terminals are separated by at least a specified distance.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first mobile radio terminal comprises a
mobile communication device and the second mobile radio terminal comprises a key
permitting operation of the mobile communication device only when the key is within a
specified distance from the mobile communication device, and wherein the step of generating
a control signal based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a mobile
communication device activation signal if the locations of the mobile communication device
and the key are within the specified distance.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a control signal
based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a control signal if the first
mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at
a second specified location.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first specified location is spacially
separated from the second specified location.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second mobile radio terminals operate in a wireless communications system including a base station and a location server communicating therewith, and wherein the comparing and generating steps are performed at the location server.

5 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing and generating steps are performed at one of the first and second mobile radio terminals.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the locations of the first and second mobile radio terminals are determined by either a global or a cellular positioning system, or a combination thereof.

10 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step further comprises the step of comparing a current time with a preselect time.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating a control signal if the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location, the second radio terminal is at a second specified location and the current time matches the
15 preselect time.

12. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
determining locations of N mobile radio terminals, wherein $N \geq 2$;
comparing the locations of the N mobile terminals with M different specified
locations, wherein $M \leq N$; and

20 generating, in response to said comparison, a control signal if at least one of the N mobile radio terminals is located at each of the M different specified locations.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of determining locations of N mobile radio terminals comprises the step of continuously monitoring, via a location server, the locations of the N mobile radio terminals.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the N mobile radio terminals operate in a wireless communications system including a base station and a location server communicating therewith, and wherein the comparing and generating steps are performed at the location server.

5 15. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
determining locations of N mobile radio terminals, wherein $N \geq 2$;
comparing the locations of the N mobile radio terminals with N specified
locations assigned to each of the N mobile radio terminals; and
10 generating, in response to said comparison, a control signal if each of the N
mobile radio terminals is located at its assigned location.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the N specified locations include N
different specified locations.

17. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
receiving, at a location server, an initiation signal from a first mobile radio
15 terminal, said initiation signal including the location of the first mobile radio terminal;
transmitting, by the location server, a location query to a second mobile radio
terminal;
reporting, by the second mobile radio terminal, the location of the second
mobile radio terminal in response to the location query;
20 comparing, at the location server, the locations of the first and second mobile
radio terminals; and
generating a control signal based upon said comparison.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating a control signal
based upon said comparison comprises the step of transmitting, by the location server, a
25 control signal activating the first mobile radio terminal for use if the locations of the first and
second mobile radio terminals are either within, or separated by, a specified distance.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first mobile radio terminal comprises a mobile communication device, and wherein the second mobile radio terminal comprises a key permitting operation of the mobile communication device only when the locations of the mobile communication device and the key are within the specified distance.

5 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating a control signal based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a control signal if the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at a second specified location spacially separated from the first specified location.

10 21. The method of claim 17, wherein the comparing step further comprises the step of comparing, at the location server, a current time with a preselect time.

 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating a control signal if the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location, the second mobile terminal is at a second specified location and the current time matches the preselect time.

15 23. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
receiving, at a location server, an initiation signal from a first mobile radio terminal;

transmitting, by the location server, a location query to the first mobile radio terminal and a second mobile radio terminal;

20 reporting, by the first and second mobile radio terminals, respective locations of the first and second mobile radio terminals in response to the location query;

comparing, at the location server, the received locations of the first and second mobile radio terminals; and

generating a control signal based upon said comparison.

25 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of generating a control signal based upon said comparison comprises the step of transmitting, by the location server, a

control signal activating the first mobile radio terminal for use if the locations of the first and second mobile radio terminals are either within, or separated by, a specified distance.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the first mobile radio terminal comprises a mobile communication device, and wherein the second mobile radio terminal comprises a key permitting operation of the mobile communication device only when the locations of the mobile communication device and the key are within the specified distance.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of generating a control signal based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating a control signal if the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at a second specified location spacially separated from the first specified location.

27. A method of generating a control signal comprising the steps of:
monitoring, at a location server, locations of N mobile radio terminals, wherein $N \geq 2$, said location server remote from the N mobile radio terminals;

comparing, at the location server, the monitored locations of the N mobile radio terminals; and

generating, at the location server, a control signal based upon said comparison.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein
the step of comparing, at the location server, the monitored locations of the N mobile radio terminals comprises the step of comparing the monitored locations of the N mobile radio terminals with M different specified locations, wherein $M \leq N$, and

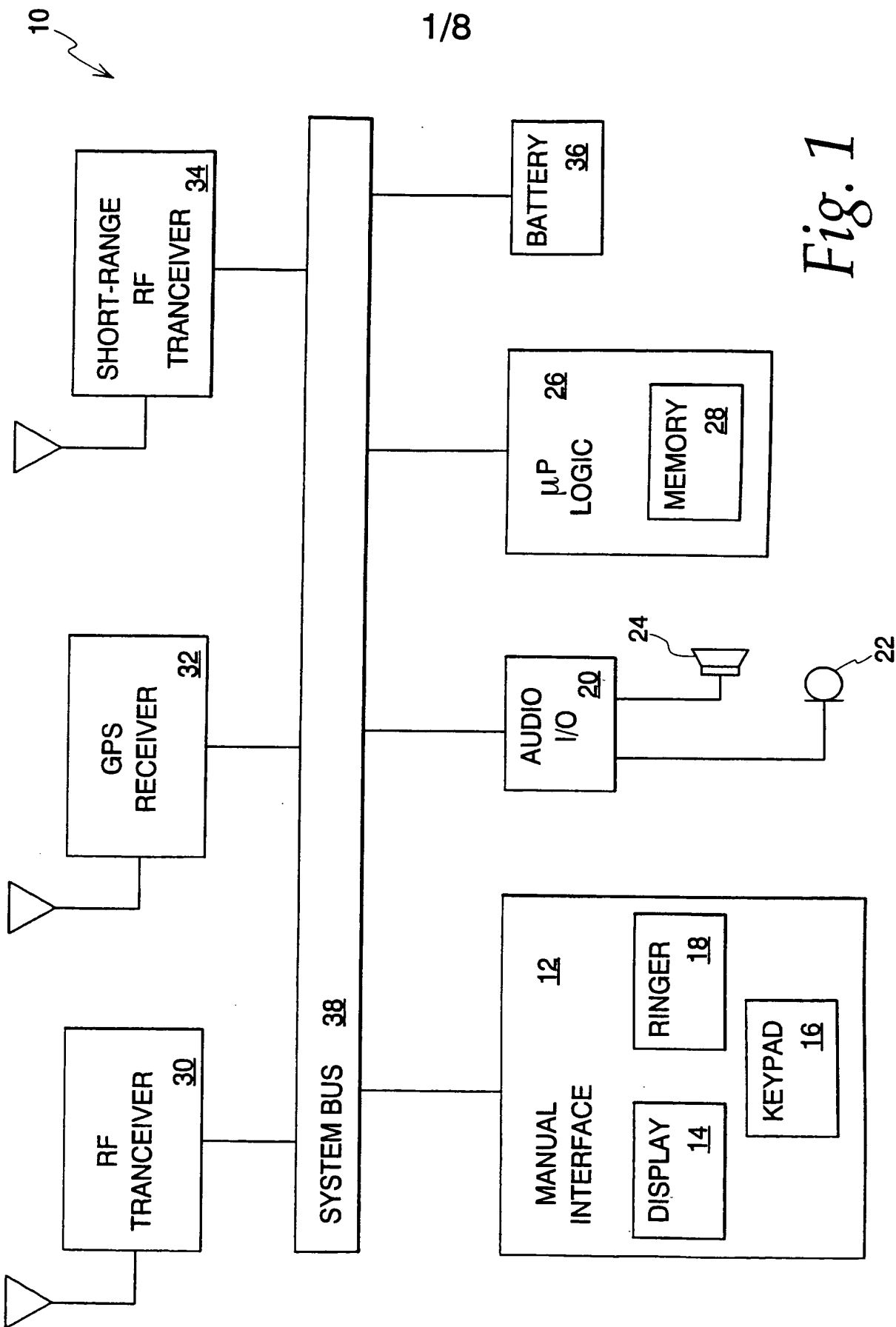
the step of generating, at the location server, a control signal based upon said comparison comprises the step of generating, at the location server, a control signal if at least one of the N mobile radio terminals is located at each of the M different specified locations.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the comparing and generating steps comprise the steps of:

comparing, at the location server, the monitored locations of the N mobile radio terminals with N specified locations assigned to each of the N mobile radio terminals; and

5 generating, at the location server in response to said comparison, the control signal if each of the N mobile radio terminals is located at its assigned location.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the N specified locations include N different specified locations.



2/8

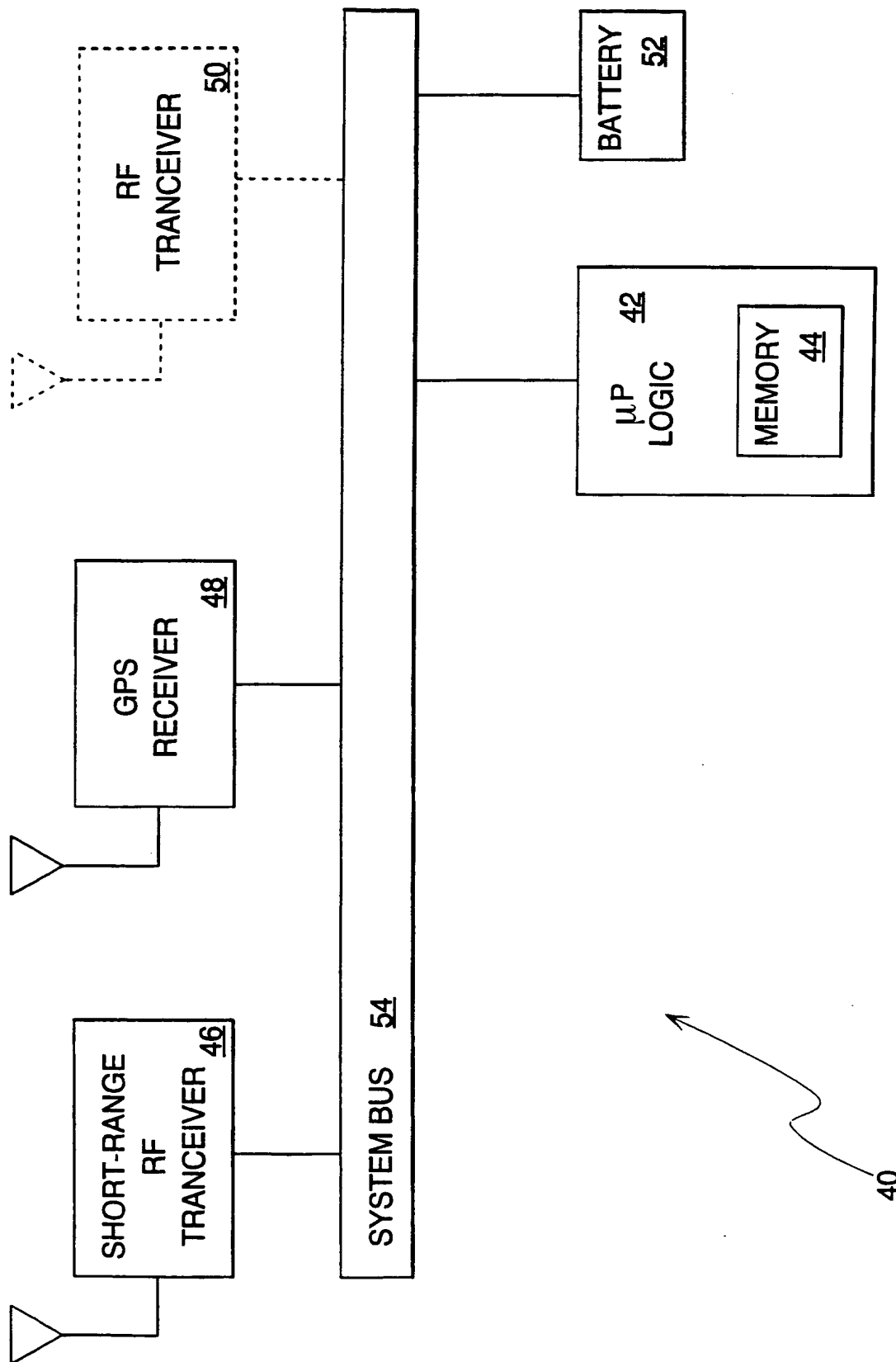
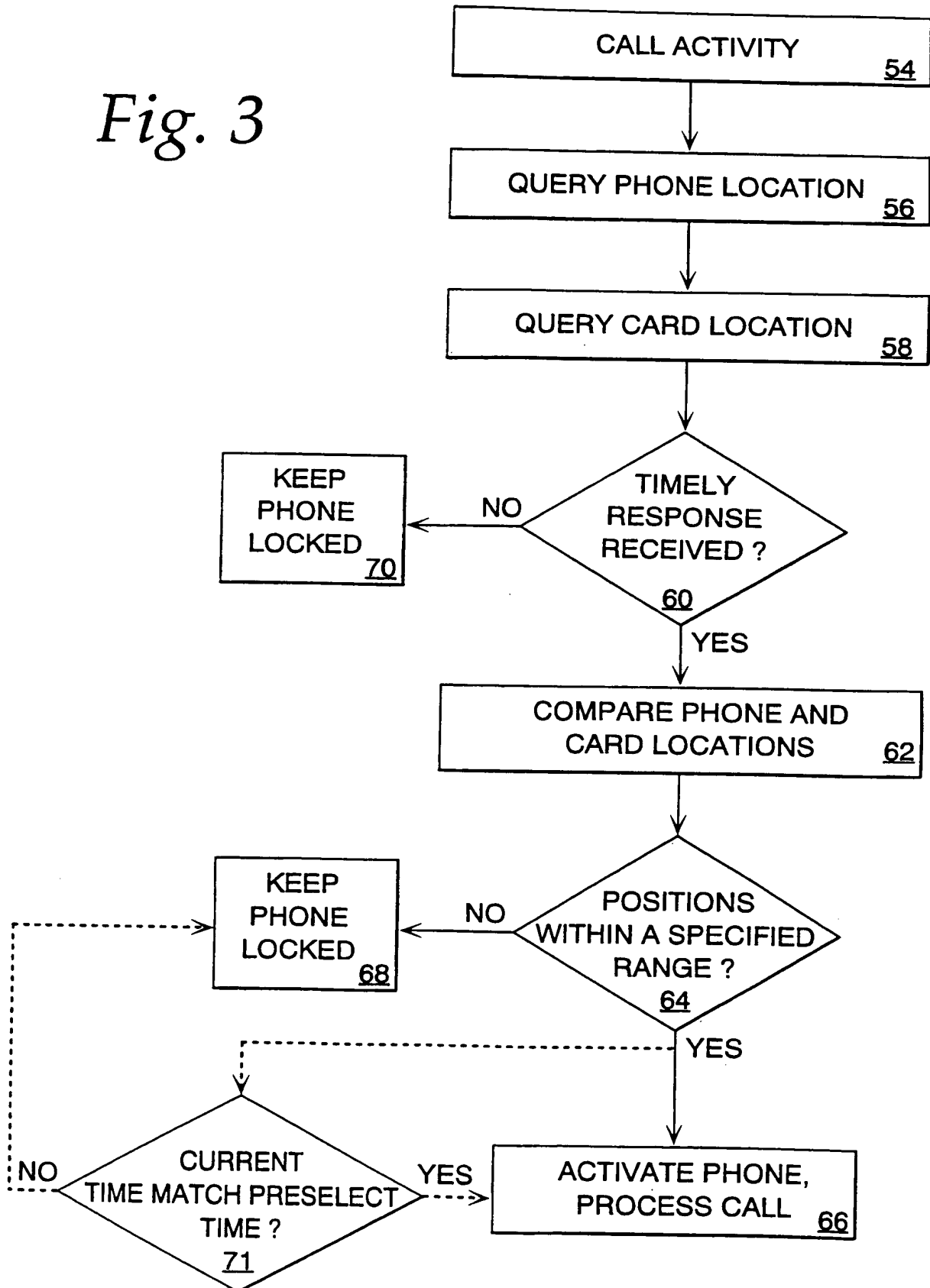
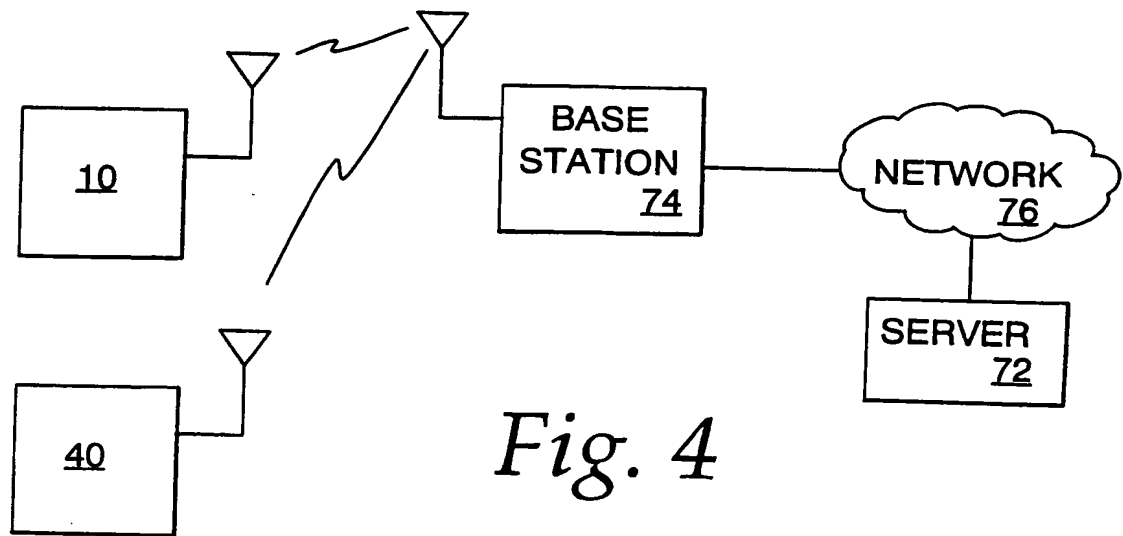
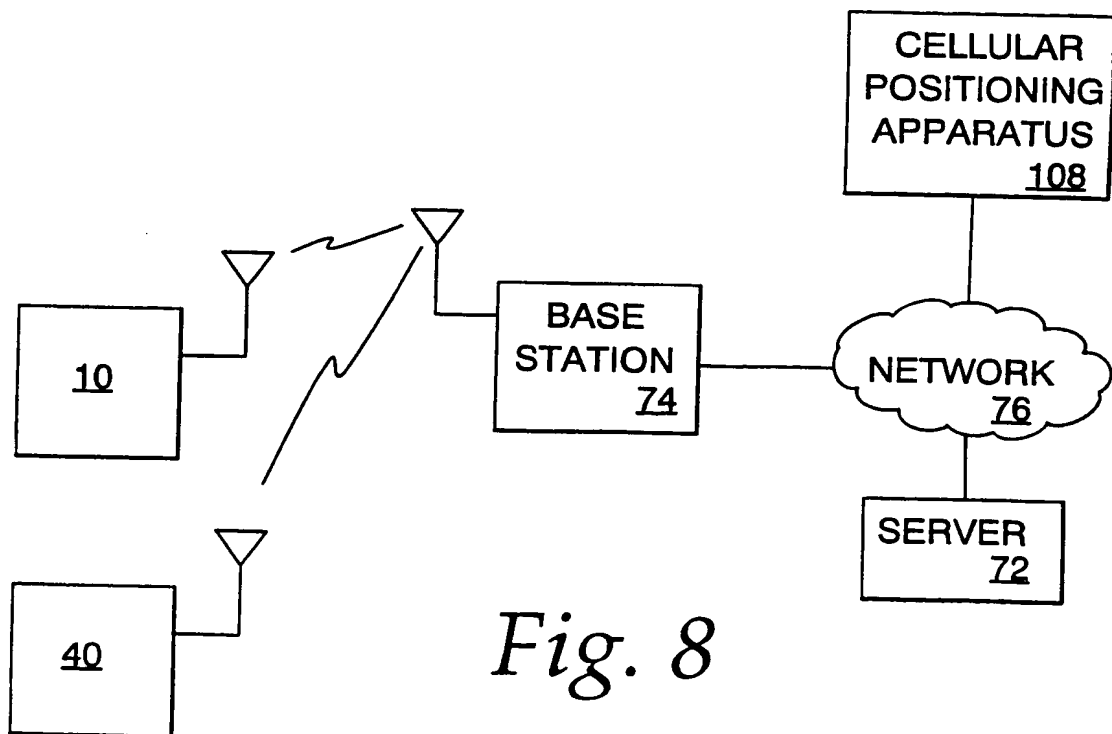


Fig. 2

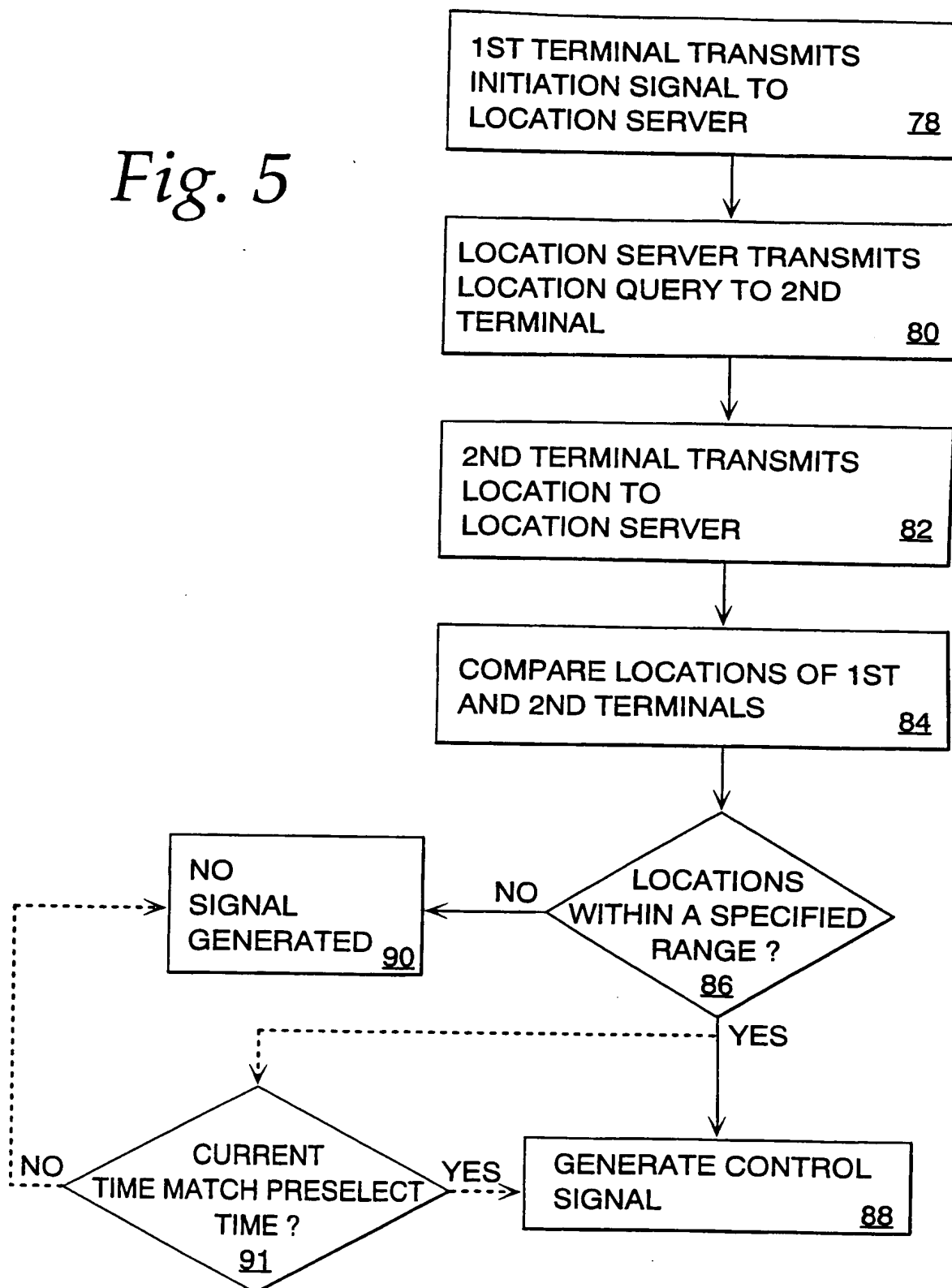
3/8

Fig. 3

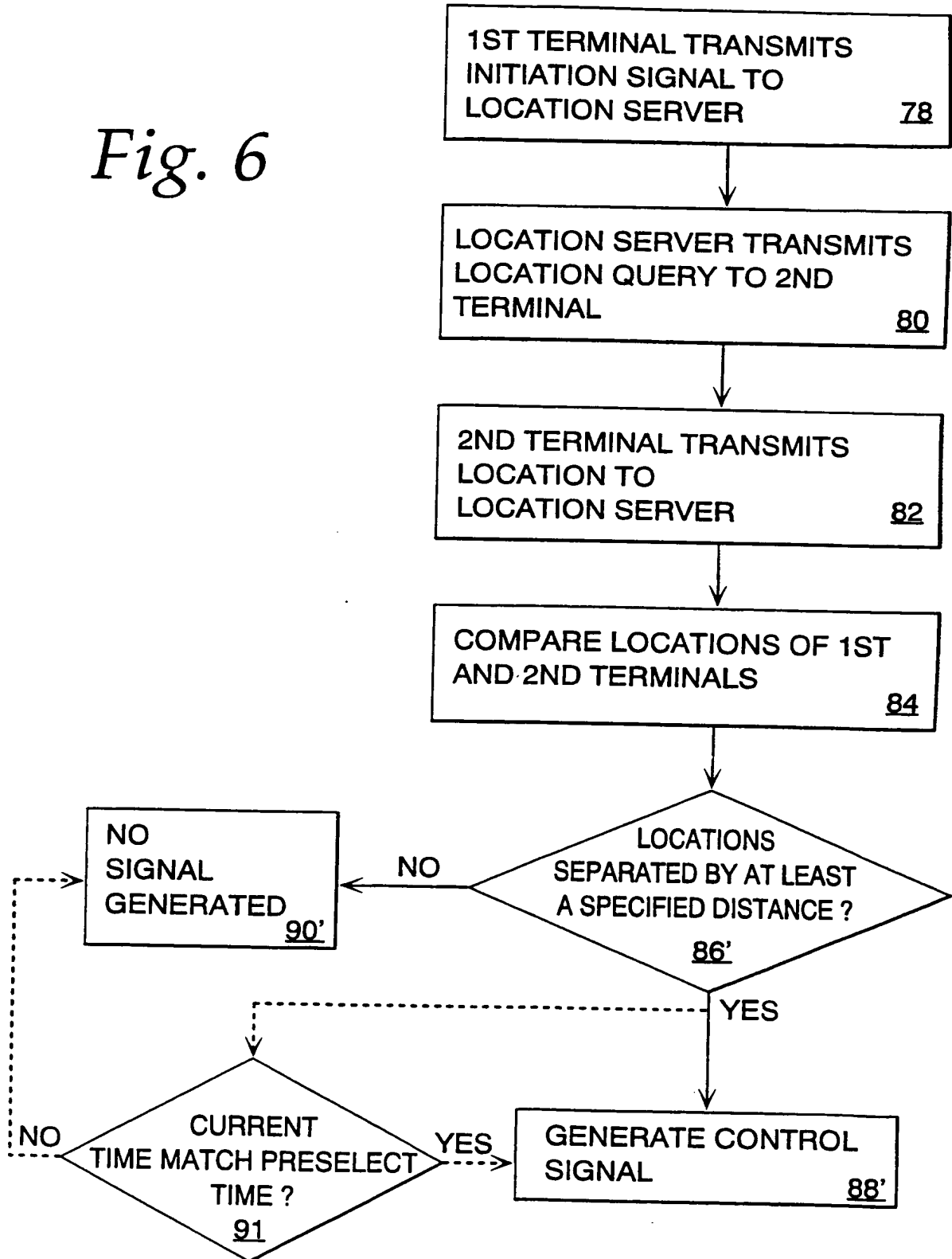
4/8

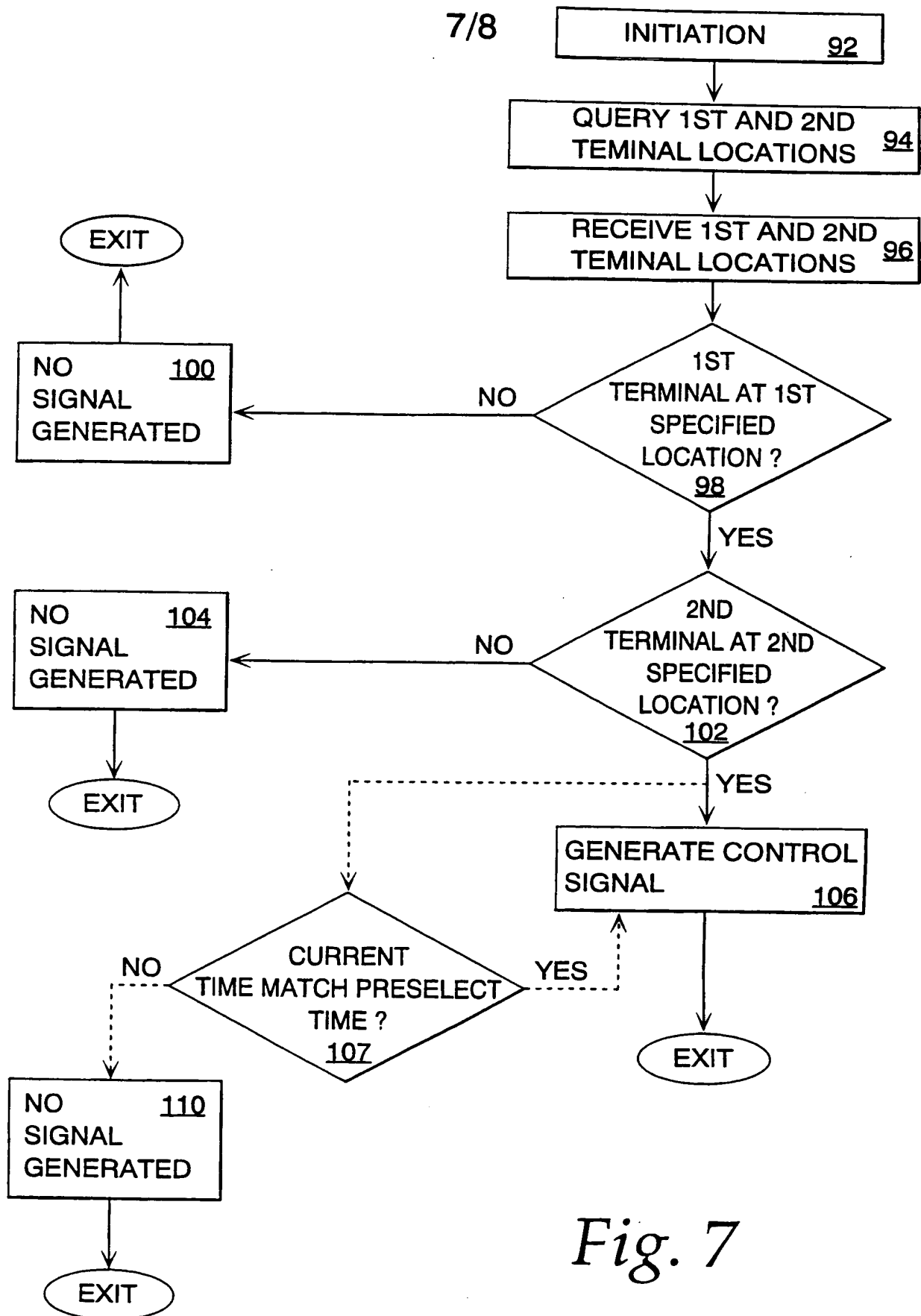
*Fig. 4**Fig. 8*

5/8

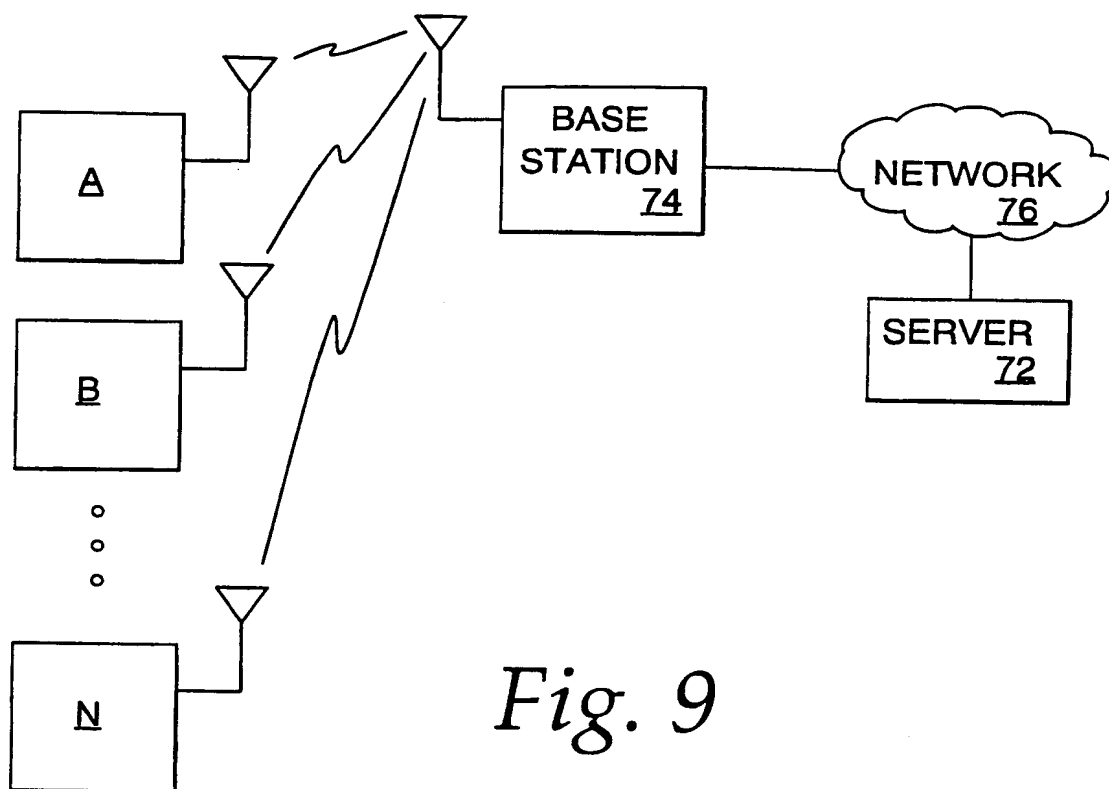
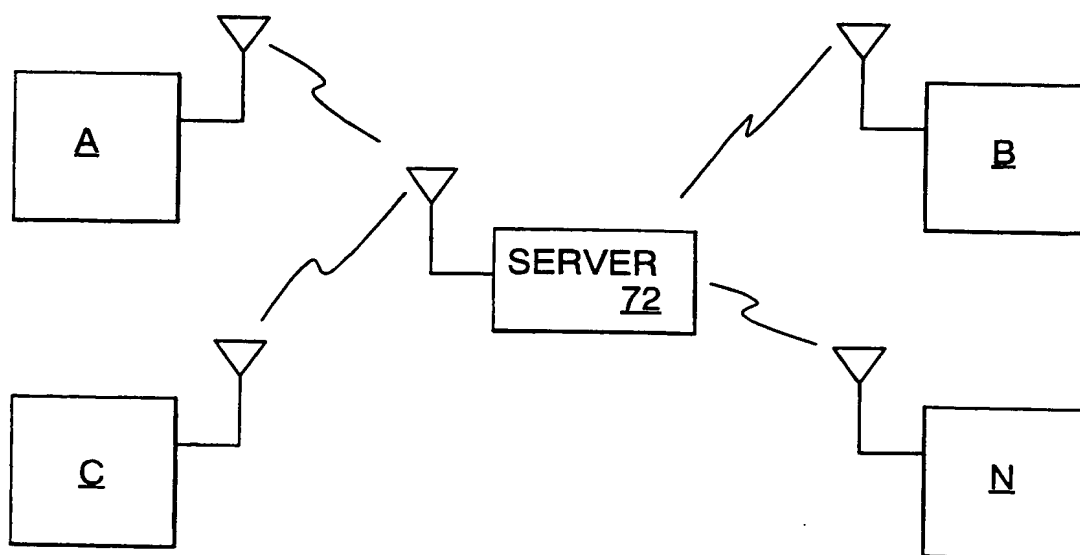
Fig. 5

6/8

Fig. 6

*Fig. 7*

8/8

*Fig. 9**Fig. 10*

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 October 2000 (19.10.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/62574 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04Q 7/38**

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US00/07786**

(22) International Filing Date: **23 March 2000 (23.03.2000)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
09/289.067 8 April 1999 (08.04.1999) **US**

(71) Applicant: **ERICSSON, INC.** [US/US]; 7001 Development Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 (US).

(72) Inventors: **IRVIN, David, R.**; 1546 Iredell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27608 (US). **KHAYRALLAH, Ali, S.**; 113 Streamview Drive, Apex, NC 27502 (US).

(74) Agent: **MONCO, Dean, A.**; Wood, Phillips, VanSanten, Clark & Mortimer, Suite 3800, 500 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661-2511 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

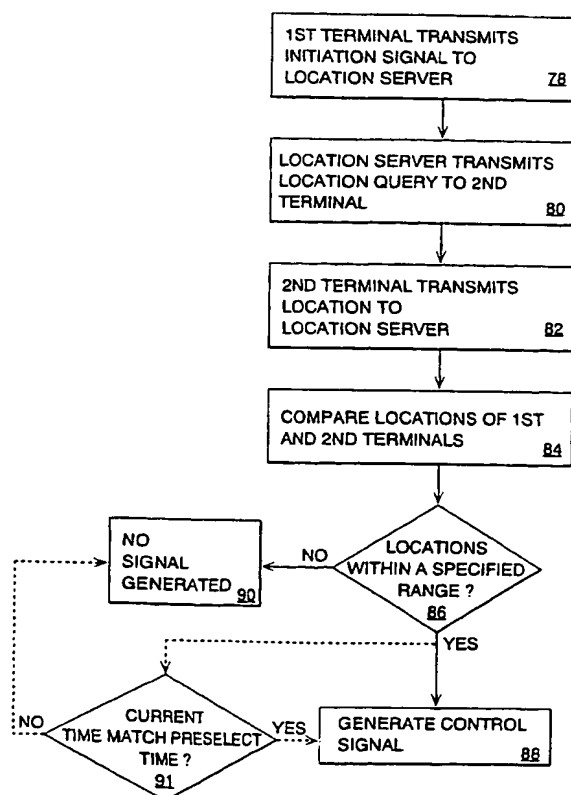
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW). Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM). European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD OF GENERATING CONTROL SIGNALS BASED ON LOCATION OF RADIO TERMINALS**



(57) Abstract: A method of generating a control signal to enable or inhibit a wide variety of applications is provided. The method generally includes the steps of determining the location of a first mobile radio terminal, determining the location of a second mobile radio terminal, comparing the locations of the terminals, and generating a control signal based upon the comparison. The control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are within a specified distance of one another. Alternatively, the control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are separated by at least a specified distance from one another. Additionally, the control signal may be generated if it is determined that the first mobile radio terminal is at a first specified location and the second mobile radio terminal is at a second specified location spatially separated from the first specified location. Further, the control signal may be generated if the first and second mobile radio terminals are at specified locations at a preselect time.

WO 00/62574 A3

WO 00/62574 A3



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
18 January 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 00/07786

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04Q7/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 666 661 A (GRUBE GARY W ET AL) 9 September 1997 (1997-09-09) column 2, line 17 - line 20 column 2, line 40 - line 47 column 3, line 53 - column 4, line 9	1-3, 7-10, 17, 21, 23
X	AYERST D ET AL: "PROXIMATE PORTABLE CALL HANDOFF SYSTEM" MOTOROLA TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS, US, MOTOROLA INC. SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS, vol. 10, 1 March 1990 (1990-03-01), page 83 XP000114661 the whole document --- -/--	1-3, 7, 9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

26.10.00

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

RothlÜbbers, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 00/07786

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 689 809 A (GRUBE GARY W ET AL) 18 November 1997 (1997-11-18) column 2, line 62 -column 3, line 38 -----	1-3,8,9
E	WO 00 22860 A (DEGNBOL JANUS FRIIS) 20 April 2000 (2000-04-20) page 4, line 1 - line 25 page 5, line 6 - line 14 page 9, line 25 - line 27 -----	1-3,7,9
P,X	WO 99 66757 A (ERICSSON INC) 23 December 1999 (1999-12-23) page 3, line 10 - line 19 page 4, line 16 - line 30 page 6, line 4 - line 10 -----	1,5,6, 27,28
P,X	WO 99 33199 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M ;BRITO SANDRA DE (SE)) 1 July 1999 (1999-07-01) page 7, line 19 -page 8, line 4 page 10, line 27 -page 11, line 2 page 13, line 13 - line 26 -----	1,5,6, 27,28

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/07786

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-4,7-10,17-19,21,23-25

Permitting operation of a mobile station by locating a key

2. Claims: 5,6,11-16,20,22,26-30

Generating a control signal based on the match of actual and predetermined positions and times of mobile terminals.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/US 00/07786

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5666661	A	09-09-1997	NONE		
US 5689809	A	18-11-1997	NONE		
WO 0022860	A	20-04-2000	AU	6188299 A	01-05-2000
WO 9966757	A	23-12-1999	AU	4678299 A	05-01-2000
WO 9933199	A	01-07-1999	AU	1357299 A	12-07-1999
			SE	9704764 A	20-06-1999